

**BRAD LITTLE**  
GOVERNOR

**Wendi Secrist**  
*Executive Director*



**Deni Hoehne**  
*Chair*

**John Young**  
*Vice Chair*

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday, November 23, 2022

**Time:** 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

**Council Committee Members:** Deni Hoehne, John Young, Joe Maloney, ~~Kelly Kolb~~, Sarah Griffin, ~~Liza Leonard~~

#### **Guests:**

**Staff:** Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck, Amanda Ames, Matthew Thomsen, Caty Solace, Cassie Mansour, Stacy James, Rebecca Watson

#### **Call to Order at 8:30 AM**

**Roll Call** – Quorum Met

**Review Agenda** – No changes to the agenda

#### **Child Care Grant Update**

Ms. Griffin presented an update on the Child Care Grants.

#### **Discussion:**

- The Committee joins Ms. Griffin in the wish that the Child Care Expansion Grant (CCEG) Committee had more money to award as there are so many worthy applications.
- Who is on the CCEG Committee?
  - Ms. Secrist reviewed the members of the CCEG Committee, sharing that we have both child care experts and employer representatives bringing a balanced point of view to the conversation.
- Ms. Secrist explained the process that the CCEG Committee used to score each application.
- Ms. Griffin shared with the committee that the staff has been invaluable in coaching applicants and guiding them through submission of thorough applications.
- Ms. Secrist shared the challenge with the Committee of limited funds and needs throughout the state.
  - Valley and Butte Counties are the most significant child care deserts in Idaho.
  - We are requesting another \$15 million for the Child Care Expansion Grants so that this effort can continue in 2023.
- The CCEG committee will recommend the first round of applications to fund to the Executive Committee in December.
- The Treasure Valley YMCA's application is potentially ineligible. They were presented with a couple of options, and they chose to update and resubmit their application in the next round.

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### ***December Council Meeting Agenda Development***

Ms. Secrist presented the following list of Council Agenda topics and asked for feedback.

- Child Care Grant Awards – report, not approval
- \*Micron Exemption Request
- \*Preceptor Incentive
- \*WIOA – AJC Branding & WDC/AE Policies
- \*Leading Idaho Investments – Launch spending
- WDTF Evaluation – are we asking the right questions?
- Youth panel? Tech Sector (incl. Micron) deep dive?
- Website/Council Hub Tour
- Exec Director Report

### **Discussion:**

- The Committee and Ms. Secrist reviewed time allotments for the various agenda items.
- Do we want to have a youth panel or tech sector deep dive?
  - The Committee would recommend keeping this Council meeting as simple as possible as it will be virtual.
  - The Committee recommends pursuing the tech sector deep dive in March.
- The Committee recommends breaking up the voting portion to enhance the involvement of the council members.
- The Committee decided on the following order after discussion:
  - Minutes, Budget Report
  - Governor's Office – Micron Expansion (Bobbi-Jo)
  - \*Leading Idaho Investments – Launch spending
  - \*Micron Exemption Request
  - Break
  - WDTF Evaluation – are we asking the right questions?
  - Child Care Grant Awards – report, not approval
  - \*Preceptor Incentive
  - \*WIOA – AJC Branding & WDC/AE Policies
  - Exec Director Report

### ***Joint Meeting with State Board of Education***

Ms. Hoehne requested feedback from the Committee on the agenda for the joint meeting.

### **Discussion:**

- The SBOE is considering promoting certificates embedded in degree programs and will be looking to us to provide input on which certificates are of value.
  - Certificates need to align with the in-demand jobs.
  - Burning Glass data on certificates that are requested in job postings will be presented in the December Executive Community meeting.

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- Mr. Freeman asked that “How businesses/employers can help advance CTE opportunities in small/rural schools” be added to the agenda.
- Could the Committee invite Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent Elect of Public Instruction, to be part of the meeting?
  - We will extend an invitation or speak to the governor’s office to make that request.
- STEM Action Center – opportunities for collaboration.
  - Mr. Young asked for more information on what the STEM Action Center does and how we can collaborate. This provided a perfect transition to the next agenda item.

### ***Executive Director’s Report***

#### ***Staff Transitions***

Ms. Solace will be transitioning in December into the role of Director of the STEM Action Center. She presented her vision for the role of the STEM Action Center and used the Work-Based Learning Continuum to describe how STEM AC could take the lead in “Learning About Work”.

She relayed that a couple of the projects that the Council started could be transitioned to the STEM Action Center, such as Next Steps Idaho and Pathful Connect.

#### **Discussion:**

- The Committee appreciated the presentation and the direction of focus for the STEM Action Center.
- They like Ms. Solace’s vision and feel the collaboration with one another will make our efforts more successful.
- The Committee discussed transitioning Next Steps and our funding for it to the STEM Action Center. The Committee also discussed the nuance of this transition. Ms. Solace built and helped manage these important facets of the WDC and is probably the best person to continue them. However, the WDC doesn’t want our priorities to define the STEM Action Center’s identity, however.
  - At the next STEM Action Center Board meeting, these ideas will be discussed to determine whether they are supportive. Staff didn’t want to have that conversation unless this committee was supportive.

#### **Other Transitions**

- Mr. Emery is now reporting to Mr. Thomsen permanently and Ms. Watson and Ms. Nielebeck are reporting to Ms. Secrist during the transition period.
- Ms. Secrist presented the bids for the buildout of the WDC office. Due to the high cost, she is rejecting these options. Ms. Secrist has asked the Department of Administration about moving to the third floor and will update as more information becomes available.

#### ***Preceptorship Incentive***

Ms. Secrist reviewed the Preceptor Incentive Proposal and the Council’s request to focus on rural Idaho healthcare. In exploring the options with the industry representatives, the consensus is that the entities that have the most capacity to host preceptorships are located in relatively urban areas. If the incentive were only

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available to students planning to locate in rural Idaho, the Council would be challenged with holding them accountable for funds that were distributed to the training provider hospitals. Data shows that nurse practitioners tend to locate in rural communities.

Rather than limiting the program to rural preceptors, Ms. Secrist will propose that the Council limit its investment in this program to \$100,000. The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation is willing to match with another \$100,000 as a pilot. Funding beyond the pilot will be based on results. This will be presented to the full Council.

### **Discussion:**

- Doesn't this qualify as an industry sector grant? Then it would be a no-brainer.
- The goal of the healthcare industry is to work toward a general fund appropriation.
- The Committee encourages the Council to remember that we are trying to focus on being "seed-money" rather than providing ongoing support and this approach aligns.

### ***Executive Committee Open Discussion***

- Tom Schultz's appointment is coming to an end, but Idaho Forest Group would still like to be represented. Marie Price has applied for his seat.
- National Apprenticeship Week activities had great attendance. US Secretary of Labor Walsh was a part of those events. Booper Dreams Big was a hit. Ms. Secrist presented it to adults while Idaho's First Lady read it to elementary school children.

**Motion by Ms. Griffin. to adjourn. Second by Mr. Young. Motion carried.**

**Adjourned at 10:01 AM**